

## **Louisiana Streamlining Commission**

### **Suggested Recommendations to Advisory Committee Chairmen**

Preamble:

The following comments on this cover sheet have been prepared at the Mercatus Center by Hon. Maurice McTigue. The purpose of the analysis was to identify issues that the committee might pursue and finally develop into recommendations to the full commission.

- The suggested recommendations are based on very limited information and the committee's local knowledge may determine that the suggestions are not viable. In that case the Committee should discard the suggested recommendation.
- If the Committee thinks the suggestion has merit then they should refer it to officials for their analysis.
- Some of our suggestions may be recommending a practice that is already in place, in which case the recommendation may be put aside or may be worded to endorse that practice or to extend it further than is the current practice.

#### **Department of Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority**

**The recommendations here may be redundant if the department reorganization and the creation of a new Department of Conservation is accepted.**

- The Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration seem to have crossover with the Environmental Quality and Natural Resources Departments.
- While describing the core business of the department, it would be useful to explicitly mention that 'environmental protection' is the main activity in the department.

#### **Savings: Total Budget \$83.027 million**

- Presumably this very specific program has been carefully constructed and costed, so I don't see any immediate savings.
- If the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority were to reside inside a new Department of Conservation and drew its support services from that department, then there would be administrative support savings.



**Department name:**

**Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority**

**State in one sentence the core business of your department:**

**Provide hurricane/flood protection to the public, property, and infrastructure of coastal Louisiana and protect, preserve, restore, and enhance coastal Louisiana.**

**For each program managed by your agency, provide the following information.**

- **Program name:**
  - Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration
- **Outcome addressed by this program:**
  - Hurricane/flood protection of the public, property, and infrastructure of coastal Louisiana
  - A sustainable, resilient coastal ecosystem that provides habitat for commercial and recreational activities
- **How many members of the public are directly involved in or affected by this program:**
  - Approximately 2,000,000 residents live in coastal Louisiana
  - Snapshot of the major industry-specific jobs directly tied to coastal Louisiana:
    - Energy - 350,000, Maritime/Ports - 300,000, Fisheries - 50,000

*\*\* In addition, it is important to note that the U.S. Congress has appropriated funding and established recovery programs totaling \$150 billion since hurricanes Katrina and Rita. A fraction of that amount could have been proactively invested in improving the resilience of Louisiana (hurricane/flood protection and coastal restoration) and prevented the pervasive loss of life, property, economic opportunity, and livelihood resulting from the 2005 and 2008 hurricanes. These last four hurricanes caused the evacuation of millions, massive disruptions in our national energy infrastructure, intermodal transportation systems, and economy affecting all Americans.*
- **How much money was expended on this program in the last fiscal year (The most recent data available are acceptable even if they are from FY 07-08):**

The following data is specific to FY09 expenditures:

  - Total State Funds: \$63,695,974; Total Federal Funds: \$19,303,739; Total Funds Expended: \$83,026,713

*\*\*Future federal funds to be leveraged based on FY09 State expenditures are estimated at \$92 million. FY10 program expenditures are estimated to be \$778 million in State funds to leverage approximately \$4.2 billion in federal expenditures.*
- **Measure used to determine success:**
  - Number of acres restored, benefited, enhanced, conserved, and protected/number of miles of levees improved. NOTE: These Performance Indicators were adopted in FY10 coinciding with the creation of this new office.
- **Level of success during each of the last three years:**
  - 2007 limited impact due to disparate efforts
  - Efforts remained disparate until Dec 2008 when early integration efforts began in earnest
  - The Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration was created by House Bill No. 833, Act No. 523 of the 2009 Regular Session and integration is creating marked and measurable success
  - Projected level of success for 2010:
    - 9,600 acres restored, benefited, enhanced, conserved, protected; 83.2 miles of levees improved
- **The societal issue addressed by this program is getting *better, remaining static, or deteriorating*:**

The societal issues addressed by this program are getting better, but certain aspects of the environmental condition continue to deteriorate. Repairs and improvements to the New Orleans area hurricane protection system have been intense post-Katrina, and while vulnerabilities still exist, ongoing efforts have resulted in the strongest system ever protecting this region. By 2011, an estimated half of the coastal population will have 100-year level hurricane protection. While land continues to be lost, a reduction in the rate of loss has been realized. Within recent decades, coastal erosion exceeded 35-40 square miles a year, compounded with sorely underfunded restoration and protection efforts. Due in part to improvements in coastal management practices, education efforts, and restoration activities it is estimated that Louisiana will lose 16-20 square miles of land this year (not including hurricane-induced loss). Science tells us that we have five to 10 years to make significant progress in abating our coastal land loss. In order to implement the entire coastal master plan, current cost estimates are \$100 billion. Today, nearly \$17 billion in projects are fully-financed and underway, with billions of dollars in additional projects authorized for construction by Congress, representing a 1,500% increase in planning, engineering, design, and construction efforts in less than two years.